

# IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 25 as follows:

Once each of these criteria has been given a score, they are combined into a single score between 0 and 10 using, for example, a weighting function. In one embodiment, the criteria are combined into a single score using the following formula:

$$y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i [2p_i^2 + (y_i - 7)^2]}{\sum_{i=1}^n [2p_i^2 + (y_i - 7)^2]}$$

where  $p$  represents a rating of the importance for each particular criterion. In one embodiment,  $p$  may be selected by the user such that  $p$  is between 0 and a value of the same order of magnitude as the constant 7. This is essentially a weighted average; weighted by how important a particular criterion has been marked by the user ( $p$ ), and by how far the applicant's score for a particular criterion is away from the standard defined by the user. In this way, any one item that is way off of the standard can affect the overall score significantly, even if there are other important criteria that meet the standard.